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DEPT FOR G/TIP MTAYLOR AND GPATEL; SCA/INS FOR CSIM AND SGANDHI

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KWMN](#) [SOCI](#) [KCRM](#) [ELAB](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED, GIRLS RESCUED IN ANDHRA PRADESH

¶1. Summary: Since mid-October 2006, the Andhra Pradesh (AP) Police, assisted by local NGOs, have rescued 80 girls and arrested 94 traffickers from four districts in the state. Most of the traffickers have been booked under non-bailable charges. Most of the rescued girls were placed in shelter homes, and some have been reintegrated with families. AP police contacts say they have undertaken a "major effort" against traffickers since the UN Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNDOC) became involved in the state in 2006. End summary.

¶2. Following media outreach undertaken in conjunction with "Anti-trafficking Commemoration Day" in the northern AP coastal city of Vishakhapatnam on December 5, leading Telugu-language television channel TV9 took up the issue of trafficking-in-persons (TIP) and approached the organizations Network Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in Andhra Pradesh (NATSAP) and Society for Help Entire Lower and Rural People (HELP) for help in mounting rescue operations. In three interventions on December 12 and 13, and 21, six minor girls were rescued while they were in the process of being sold by traffickers for approximately \$444 - \$666 (Rs. 20,000 - Rs. 30,000) each. Vishakhapatnam Police confirmed the arrests of six traffickers in the three incidents. The cases were booked under Indian Penal Code (IPC) - 366 (A) 372; Immoral Trafficking and Prevention Act (ITPA) - 4 and 5 sections, and 23 of Juvenile Justice Act (JJA).

¶3. Elsewhere in Andhra Pradesh, joint operations by the AP Police's Crime Investigation Department and Guntur District Police led to the rescue of 22 girls and the arrest of 31 traffickers on January 2 and

¶4. Building on those investigations, on January 10 and 12 the police arrested additional traffickers from coastal districts of AP, Hyderabad city and areas of southern AP near the border with Tamil Nadu. Interestingly, one of the traffickers was a former film producer. Police informed us that majority of the cases booked in Guntur also are non-bailable and that, if the arrestees are convicted, the minimum punishment is seven years imprisonment.

¶4. Separately, AP police also arrested 45 suspected traffickers in the Anantapur district and 12 in the West Godavari district. 40 girls were rescued in these operations, including some from Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and even Nepal. This is the first known case of international trafficking in the state for some time.

¶5. Comment: Supported by the UNODC, in recent months the AP police have shown new initiative in undertaking anti-TIP raids and rescuing victims, particularly girls. A Toll-free help line (1-800-180-1000) set up by the NGO organization HELP has led to raids in several districts. There also are indications of increasing inter-state cooperation on TIP. One NGO has told us it is being invited to accompany police on rescue operations in Delhi, Pune and Bangalore.

Hopper